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The World for Christ

APPEAL

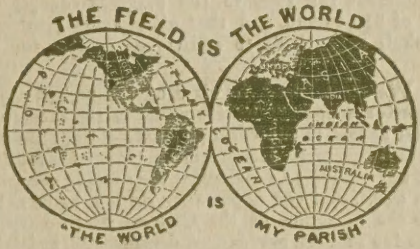
of the

GENERAL COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church

1909



Basis of Regular Apportionment

$1,500,000

An Additional Appropriation of

$500,000

for purposes named in Appeal. Charges contributing full regular apportionments and 25% of additional apportionments, will be placed on the HONOR ROLL.

The World for Christ

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THE General Committee of Foreign Missions at its annual session held in St. Louis, November 10, 1908, adopted the following:

The General Committee of Foreign Missions having carefully considered the missionary situation expresses its conclusions in the following recommendations:

1. We recommend to the Board of Managers an apportionment for 1909 to the pastoral charges on the basis of $1,500,000, and that all charges reaching that line shall be entitled to additional credits for special gifts.

2. We recommend, in view of the urgent needs and imperative opportunities for work in the foreign fields, that we appeal to our Bishops, District Superintendents, Pastors, Quarterly Conferences, Official Boards, and all of our people to supplement the regular contribution by an additional *one half million dollars*, to be expended under the direction of the General Missionary Committee for schools, parsonages, dispensaries, and missionaries in Japan, Korea, and China, in India, Burma, Malaysia, and the Philippine Islands, in Europe, Africa, South America, and Mexico; and that all churches contributing 25 per cent in addition to their full equitable apportionment shall be placed upon an honor roll of missionary churches and the names of these churches with Conference and District shall be published in the Annual Report for the year 1909, and in WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS. (The late General Conference in view of the needs of the work, recommended the raising of $3,000,000 during the year 1909, in which recommendation we heartily concur.)

3. We recommend that our people make weekly contributions to the cause of Foreign Missions according as God has prospered them, using therefor the envelopes furnished free by the Board of Foreign Missions.

4. We recommend the observance of the monthly missionary prayer meeting in all our churches, as laid down in the Discipline; that God may bless our world-encircling missions, prosper all our enterprises, multiply converts in all lands, and especially for prayer that the gifts of our people may be commensurate with the needs of the fields.

Brethren! we are deeply impressed that God is in a very special manner calling upon the Church to enter the doors which His providence has opened.

It will be observed that the General Committee appeals for $1,500,000 for 1909 and instructs that the apportionments to pastoral charges be made on that basis. The Committee also appeals for an additional $500,000 to be expended under its own supervision for schools, parsonages, dispensaries, and new missionaries in our several foreign fields above enumerated. Here in America where schools and colleges, private and public, abound, and churches and parsonages are counted by tens of thousands and where numerous hospitals are found in our principal towns and great cities, it is quite impossible for our people to realize the scarcity of these institutions in non-Christian lands. It is too likely to be forgotten that while our three million members are through various benevolent societies and local churches aiding in the erection of these institutions at home, in foreign lands the Board of Foreign Missions together with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society must erect all these buildings and carry forward the entire work. We rejoice in the generous provision made for our own people here in America, but in the midst of our wealth we must not forget the poverty and destitution of the millions who dwell in non-Christian lands. We are in danger as individuals and as churches of becoming too self-centered. The individual who

cares only for himself is dead spiritually. The local church that plans for itself only is moribund, if not dead. The life of both the individual and the church requires a world-wide vision. The gospel scheme is on the plan of world-wideness. The Bible tells of a world created,—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"; a world lost and sinful,—"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"; a world redeemed,—"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"; a world conquered,—"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The creation, the fall, and the redemption are facts of history, but the conquest is yet to be completed. The battle is now on. Every true disciple is a soldier and his motto is "THE WORLD FOR CHRIST."

"Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod."

For and on behalf of the General Committee and the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. B. LEONARD, Corresponding Secretary.
H. C. STUNTZ, First Asst. Cor. Secretary.
S. O. BENTON, Recording Secretary.
HOMER EATON, Treasurer.